

Leveraging Community Partnerships to Support Fathers' Well-being

Guylaine Richard: We're going to start our webinar now, and we are actually this afternoon is going to be looking at how, you know leveraging community partnerships to support father's well-being. and as I said before, this is the second webinar on our Fatherhood Connection series that we started And don't worry if you didn't have the first one. We are picking up where we left. And pretty soon, I think you know, you're going to go and meet the presenters. As I was talking to you I purposely didn't say anything about myself. I'm going to give the honor first to our leader here on fatherhood. And David, take it, and we'll go back and stop in the middle, and Lima will definitely have a chance to present himself.

So hi, David. Take it on.

David Jones: Okay, thank you, Gee. Welcome Everyone. Like she said, my name is David Jones and I am a senior program specialist and co-lead of the Office of Head Start's Father Engagement efforts. On behalf of Ann Lenihan, our acting director of the Office of Head Start and my colleagues from the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement, I'd like to welcome you to our second webinar: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Support Fathers' Well-being.

This work is so important to the Office of Head Start's mission, to engage families with a specific focus on fathers. We're so excited about this three part webinar series for a number of reasons. We have a solid team of skilled facilitators with a lot of expertise in the area. And we are including for the first time a number of voices you may be familiar with you may not be familiar with, rather. Fatherhood champions from across the country. Our champions, like many of you, are advocates defenders, promoters and supporters who are fighting for a worthy cause, improving outcomes for children and families by engaging fathers and supporting staff in our efforts to do so. Many are fathers themselves. One of our champions is a mother. And yet they are all familiar with the Head Start Birth to Five Father Engagement Guide. And they have great stories to tell that can support your implementation efforts. Our discussion today will build upon our previous topic, which focused on the need for programs to be thoughtful and intentional when creating welcoming environments and building strong relationships with fathers.

The environment can immediately suggest that fathers are welcome, or in some cases well intended efforts can send conflicting messages. When you build a relationship with someone, you extend yourself because you have something to offer. You're seeking mutuality and reciprocity. You understand they also have something to offer so there is an expectation that you will get something in return. This creates further ground for a partnership which is essential because true engagement is really about how we partner with parents by learning what's important for them and their family. When we avail ourselves to the possibilities we learn of the many strengths and numerous roles fathers are playing or can learn to play in support of their children and families. And we can also co-construct strategies to help fathers who struggle. In the end, our goal is to be a culturally responsive tailoring program service delivery to meet their needs. Thank you for joining us and I hope you enjoy the webinar. Gee?

Guylaine: Thank you David. Thank you so much. And for giving us a great summary of the purpose of the goal that we have in those areas. Thank you so much. And I will take a quick minute to introduce myself. As David said, we are, as you are probably as you are champions in the work that we do with fathers. I am Guylaine Richard and I work with the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement I'm the director of Training Development.

And I would just take a minute to let you know that my passion for father engagement came from my strong relationship with my own father. My father is still alive. He is 90 years old, but you know we have a strong relationship. He has been instrumental in making the connection for me with community partners that have gotten me to where I am today. Like anything I remember for that anything that I would love to do, anything that I wanted to do, he would let me, and I said, "okay let me find out first and after that you can go." So he ended up giving me the confidence that I have as a woman to do anything that men could do. As you can see, I am from a country that was very authoritarian, from Haiti, from the Caribbean, where females do not entertain certain things. But you know, in my family my father gave me that confidence. So I will say there and tell you this for me this is one of the topic that I'm passionate about because of the experience personally, the relationship that I have with many, not only my father, but also other men in my life. And I will just let Lima go ahead and as a champion to present yourself Lima, take off.

Lima Pereira: Well, thank you, Gee. Good afternoon all. My name is Lima Pereira, and I'm excited to be a part of today's session. I'm actually calling in from Michigan. So I just wanted to make sure all of my Michigan colleagues are aware. I am a Training and Technical Assistance contractor specializing in fatherhood programming. I work closely with programs to deliver the resources and support fathers need to realize their potential as productive citizens and responsible, engaged fathers. Over the years I've learned it requires a network of organizations working together in order to achieve some of the results that we're looking for. The purpose of our message today is to provide ideas on how to build your community partnerships. Thank you.

Guylaine: Thank you, Lima. As we are going to be continuing the conversation, I would like to bring to your... to make sure that people know that we're going to give you some of the... anything that we have here short of the PowerPoint you're going to be able to download it at a point. We will let you know how you can download the resources that we have bringing to you. What we would like to do now is to look at what we intend to do this afternoon together. We are going to be looking at how to go by the leverage to uncover strength to help father with their needs. So one of the things that we're going to be doing to do that is we're going to use the family partnership process to uncover the strengths and needs of fathers. And we understand that community collaboration is so important and needs to be established to support family well-being.

So we're going to try and identify during our conversation some opportunities that community partnership that you can look into to support father's well-being. Those are the two things that we are going to keep in mind as we are engaged together So in an effort to go ahead and get you to give us a little more information about the thing we do, we're going to have a question. And actually this is a poll question And what we're interested in knowing is: what is your primary source of information about the strengths and needs fathers in your program do have? And you just take a pick, you can vote on... we would like to know one of the sources. If you can focus your attention on one, that would be best. But if you have more than one, don't hesitate. So let's go ahead. We're going to give you two minutes to complete the poll if not less.

Lima: Wow Gee. I'm really looking forward to seeing the response to this question.

Guylaine: Yeah. Yeah. I would love to ask a person to give me more information already. I have about nine people who have children. I would love to know that because I think when children are trying to study, giving you this sort of information from their father, that tells you a lot. You know, anybody that has some example, tell me what their children are saying about their father.

Lima: Wow, so far it looks as though mothers are trending as the top response followed very closely by goal setting processes. So that speaks to a different type of information we'll receive. I like that So we're going to close the polling, and I'm going to ask Nina to broadcast the results for us. Thank you everyone or participating. Alright, beautiful. So I'm going to read the results in rank order. So mothers are the top response at 38.9 percent, followed by goal setting process, which is 23.7 percent, followed by enrollment forms at 15.1 percent followed by fathers at 14.5 percent and other, which we will... perhaps you could share what other may be; and the last one was actually children, which is 3.2 percent. I am curious whether or not anyone found the fact that fathers were about the 4th answer? Wondering and please respond by chat him. I'm wondering if you're surprised by the response percentage for fathers. While you're responding, let me just close the polling section out just by saying that here's a thought, each of these sources offer different types of information. However, direct communication with fathers is the best approach to attain accurate information about his goals, interests and needs. At this time I'll hand the presentation back to you Guylaine.

Guylaine: Alright, thank you so much, Lima. And actually you know, I was myself very curious about the work for the children because I love to really brag about my dad, so I was hoping that the children were talking or bragging about their fathers, too, because it's a lot that we can learn about a father from their own child. Okay, so as we were talking, we said even about... that we were focusing on the...

David: I want to add just one comment before we transition back to the poll. I'm looking at the chat box and some of you are sort of saying that this is subpar for the course and you agree with it and you're saddened. And that again speaks to the level of integrity that you have for the work, but that's exactly why we're doing this webinar. And we hope that some of the things that we're going to share with you is going to help you sort of create some circumstances and programs and that begins to change. Thank you so much, David. Thank you.

Guylaine: Yes, so we're going to go and actually look at... because a lot of you in the poll said that you were learning from fathers. A lot of the information that you get is from fathers. So one of the ways that we usually, I know you engage with fathers during enrollment process, but also we would love to see how the family partnership process support you and engaging fathers and talking to them and finding out you know about their strengths, their needs, their goals and also even their community partnerships, even your own partners or other partners that you may not have even thought about that are already serving your fathers. So for the family partnership process, actually I have now highlighted the resource. This is a new resource that we have developed at the National Center on Parent, Family, Community Engagement to better support you with the understanding this process. So this is it, you can download it from the ECLKC. This is definitely one that you will find, and actually we have it in our resources to download.

You know, I'm going to take one quick minute to let you know as you are seeing the resources to download, you can download them but one of the steps that we would like to remind you as you downloading them, if you were to download that right now, if you highlight one of those resources... that actually the one that I'm talking about is the Family Partnership Process: Engaging and Goal-Setting with Families. This is the third one [Inaudible] you're seeing on the box you're seeing on the left hand side of your computer. Engaging and Goal Setting With Families. If you click on it, you need to actually go to the second step. By clicking on it, it won't open it. It won't be downloading it. You need to go to the 'browse to' button. You need to click on that 'browse to' button and you will be able to download this resource. So we're going to take a little tour of the resource before we do that, actually, we would like to know, just

another chat we're going to engage you, you can answer in your chat box. We're going to ask you this question. With whom do you develop the family partnership agreement usually in your program: the mothers, the fathers, or both parents either together or individually? So take a little time to just answer that for us.

And we are going to try... oh mothers, both parents, oh mothers. It looks like mothers are getting, both is possible but you're getting mothers. I think this is giving us, basically as you are putting your answers in the chat, we really appreciate the fact that you're letting us know. And it depends, and I have someone, Angela said it depends on the culture. Usually this is something that we may want to be paying attention to So sometimes you go to do a family partnership agreement, and you want to talk to the mother, but because of the family culture where the man is the person that you go to, is the go to person before you can make any decision, you may find yourself having to do the partnership agreement in the presence of the father or with the father. But as we can see here, most of the majority I'm not unfortunately able to look at the poll, but I would say based on your answers that the majority of us are doing the family partnership agreement with the mothers. But the reason [Inaudible] behind the family partnership process is that you get the opportunity to do that not only with the mothers, but we are also called to be involved with the fathers if they are actually a part of the child's life and they want us to support them in goals that they have. And that family partnership process, I don't know how many of you have already been engaging into this. What we are looking at, the family partnership process is really divided. We can look at it as a process that goes to six phases and seven steps. The reason why we say six phases and seven steps... and I'm going to highlight the phases really quickly for you. And when we get to the fourth phase, as you are looking at – if you have the opportunity to, if you have the book in front of you, if you have downloaded it, if you are looking at this, we would like to say when we get to phase four, we are actually going to cut the pie and bring that piece of the pie from the bigger pie because this is where we understand we see the goal setting happening, and we are going to give you an outline of how we see that happen. So usually during the recruitment and enrollment, a lot of you have already said it, you are involving the fathers, you are engaging them. So there is a time where they can give you information about them. In the family and child assessment, this is another time, this is another phase, another source of information, another source of data where you can find a lot more about the fathers about their strengths, about when they want, about where they go.

And this is the family assessment. Usually the family assessment, as we do for the family partnership process, we look at doing that with the mothers, but you know, the family, the father also is part of the family. So it's a good habit, it's a good thing for us to be asking them questions in doing that assessment about fathers. And the third phase is the communication. We communicate with the families. You know, the fathers we have an opportunity to communicate with them. We can call them, we can talk to them when they drop off their kids. We can find ways to really engage them and talk to them. So this is another phase. So all those three phases are things that can happen way before we start the goal setting process. Because as we know, when we are starting goal setting with someone, we like to know the person. That's why you know we have this outline also, the building partnership.

This is another resource that you can download, and that will give you an opportunity to look at how important it is to build partnerships before we start even goal setting with someone. Because it's very difficult for you if you don't have a relationship with a father to say what do you want? What do you need? What's your goal? They may not be receptive to this, but if they know you, if you have built a trusting relationship with them, you are more likely to get them to answer that question. So when we get – after

we get all the opportunities to have conversation, to have information, data and function, we can start with the goal setting. And the goal setting process as you can see, this is where we are saying that we are going to divide it in seven steps. And the steps are there so they can outline the partnership that exists with you and the father. Usually when we sit with the father, we like to tell, ok what do you want? What is your goal? The goal, the setting goals has to come from the father. The father will tell you what they want. But you can sit down with them in a conversation. As partners, you are also engaging them to prioritize with you because you are both now entering a partnership, and this is where the seven steps come into play.

So when the father has given you, for example, why they are interested in their goal, now both of you need to take a little time to analyze the skills that you have, because a lot of times we don't take the time to ask them what are the skills, what are the strengths that you have? What is stressing you out? You can give me your goal and that stresses me out. I will tell you as related to this goal, thank you. I'm stressed out by this, for example. If you want to go to get a college degree and you didn't pass your GED, for example, you didn't have the GED and you tell me my goal is to go to college, but I don't want to get the GED. So that may be a little stresser. So you need to be able to discuss that with the fathers. And after that, the thing that I would like to put and once you are getting into that conversation, you start developing the strategies together. But one of the things that is important here and comes into play with what we are talking about leveraging community partnerships, a lot of times we need to pay attention to the support that is already there. What is the support system that this father has? What is the support system that the community can provide? What do we have in our own program? So you see, part of the seven steps is also to determine the support. And final but not the least step is to determine success, track progress and celebrate success. Every time something – sometimes it's important as partners when you see them with the fathers to say: you want this. What will it look like? At the end, what would be success for you? Because a lot of times the class will be successful.

You cannot be successful, cannot be seen as successful to parents. So you need to as partners sit down together, talk with each other, and find out what are those elements. And we call them the Seven S because most of those words that we are assessing/determining are starting with an 's'. Alright, so finally after we do this, we also cannot finish. The family process is not done just because I have a goal now, I had established the strategies, and I know everything, my partner knows me, I know my partner. We need to continue doing the follow up and the review. Follow up is important because you may have to change course. You may have to change things along the way. So if you're not following up and you're not reviewing, if you don't take the time to review with the father what you're doing, that may be problematic at a point. Finally, the phase six is the continuous program improvement. Basically, as we are looking at the needs of our fathers in our program, that can truly inform the program on where to go as well as support for the fathers, developing even partnerships, community partnerships in support of the fathers in our program. So I'm sure that you will have the opportunity to, when you download your Engaging in Goal Setting with Families resource book, you will have more information.

But I would like to take this time to really go ahead and engage you in taking a deeper look, engaging with fathers through the process. I know you say it's easier to do the mothers, but the fathers also, all those phases as you can see, fathers have their place in this. So what I would like to – David, is there anything you would like to add? Or anything Lima? Anything that you guys would like to add to the conversation here before I go forward, move along?

David: Yeah, Guylaine, just a couple of really quick points. So in my experience in relationship to goal setting, this is one place where providers tend to struggle the most. And partly it's because the easy place for them to land is supporting fathers around their role as financial providers. But it's really, really important to in that process that we talked about last time where you're building a relationship and you're learning who the father is and what's important to him in relationship to his role in the family, it's important to learn some things about his temperament, his intrinsic and extrinsic desires to support the development of realistic goals because sometimes they have goals that are not necessarily grounded in reality. And then that way we can begin to evaluate 1.

If you are going to focus on an employment goal, the kind of work that he might be best suited for so that they can actually meet with some success. I think also to Marilyn's comment that most fathers are not with the mothers, I would say – a question that I would ask you to consider: is that officially or unofficially? Because there are cultural implications sometimes for the fathers being connected to the family when they enroll in a program as well as economic implications. So I would just ask you to consider that. And then also that mothers typically have a little more experience navigating and negotiating service systems. So true, it is usually the mother that comes, but part of the relationship building with fathers, if we create those environments that we discussed in the first webinar, they may well eventually get to a place where they're comfortable in our environment. And the last part is again connected to the previous webinar. There is a little bit more effort initially required when you're engaging fathers, but don't think that you have to do anything different with them that you do when you're engaging mothers. It's still a parent. This is still a relationship, and you still have to communicate with them in a respectful way. Lima?

Lima: Thank you, David. Great, great, great commentary. And what always resonates in my mind in talking with practitioners, whether it be family service workers, we work in a relational driven business, without a doubt. And certainly it may be somewhat uncomfortable initially working with fathers because sometimes they're very stoic. They are very personable people. But I think what we are attempting to do today in terms of the whole series of fatherhood webinars is to really give us a platform and some understanding and framework about how to really be engaged with dads. That said, we have moved on to the next slide, and the focus here is community partnership. So I want everyone to take a second, think about how much you know about organizations serving fathers in your community. And feel free to enter your thoughts in the chat. In the meantime, I'd like to share my experience with working with a community partner. When I was a fatherhood program manager, our data revealed that a third of our program fathers did not live with their Head Start children, and most of them had child support in rears. If you've worked with fathers experiencing child support issues, you know how overwhelming it can be on their lives and how it impacts the entire family, including parent involvement.

Our program didn't offer child support services, but we needed to address the issue. We worked with local government outreach programs that we had identified within the zip code service area that we worked, and they were – we were able to sit down, understand what their expectations and goals were. They had an outreach program that allowed us to tap into free educational services related to the office of child support and how to navigate the system. What it did for us, it certainly allowed us to expand our services to fathers, which again we did not provide those types of services because it was not a part of our core program. However, it was really a double win. So it was a win-win situation in that we were able to expand services, but the partner was also able to expand their opportunities to meet with more fathers and provide the services. I am going to move to the next portion of this. And part two is the discussion which really focuses on what do you know about community partners and – I'm sorry. What do your

community partners know about your work with fathers? And as we take a look and think about that, you may not know the answer to that questions, but you should have a strategy in place that keeps your program top of mind and the leading program in the community for fathers. You want to ensure that all of your neighbors, those businesses and organizations that are operating within your service area that when they think of your program, they're like ah, that.

They do a lot of work with fathers. And that's where we want to eventually evolve, that we are not just a well kept secret, but folks are well aware of what we offer. A tactical strategy that you could include is to make sure that you invite constituents and local organizations to activities for fathers. And what I mean by that is so many programs shy away from inviting constituents from the policy side of the business. They do not invite enough business leaders, school board members. We want to engage government officials. We want all of these different representatives in our community to be a part of our activities. Invite them in so that they can see first hand the good work that you're doing in your program. I hope that this slide was helpful. Now we'll pass this on to Guylaine.

Guylaine: Thank you so much, Lima. And actually we are going to be now exploring some tips. We are going to be looking at some tips that we can use as we are trying to do this work on leveraging community partnership. One other thing that we want to do first, by looking at ways for us to be systematic in our approach. The best way when you look at a system is you're looking at what is happening at all levels of your program. So you want to start by thinking about developing a plan of action. A plan of action as a program based on the strength and trust and needs of the fathers you serve. And for this we would like to really bring to your attention that we have a resource. We have a resource that really can support this core program. Actually, this resource, some of you may be familiar with it. It is a big, spiral orange book that we call it Markers of Progress. But we have a digital version. And this version actually can be downloaded from the ECLKC, and it does have an action plan. The action plan really will assist you as a program [Inaudible] Where are you? Where are you into the work that you're doing with fathers and where do you want to be? Some of us will be at the starting point, meaning like it's okay to be at the starting point. And the starting point – in this resource you will find some information about what does it mean to be at the starting point on engaging with families.

And you can look at engaging with fathers in that sense. So as David said, certainly things that we are doing for mothers we can for fathers. So it's not that it's so very different, but we need to be paying attention. And the way if we do that as a program in a systematic way, we look at what we're going to do. So this book is a – this resource is a valuable tool, [Inaudible] valuable to you and it really gives you a way as a program to move from starting point to get to another level, and it has three levels. And now this is am I at the starting point? Am I at the implementation point? I think I'm actually using the wrong term. I know there is another, and another innovating. Innovating is when you are definitely going and doing some that are above and beyond, and that can be exemplary, but you know hey, all of us have to start at a point and this is that opportunity that you have, by looking at this resource. And I am going to pass again the baton to Lima. And Lima is going to look at another tip that we can be using, going to give you another second tip that may be useful for you as you're implementing.

Lima: Thank you so much, Gee. Tip Number 2: The Elevator Pitch. I love this because I think the elevator pitch is so important and hopefully I'll be able to touch a couple of points that may resonate with all of you. So it's called an elevator pitch because it's a statement you can deliver in 30-60 seconds, essentially the time that it takes to ride on an elevator. It's a pitch to prospective partners that summarize your

program value. And you should include quantifiable outcomes if you have them. We always want to make sure that we can save 45 percent of this, or X amount of number of participants who are able to achieve certain objectives. That really resonates with prospective partners. Let's review the key points on an elevator pitch. We'll start with the first one.

Make sure to include your program's goals for engaging fathers. For example, your goal may be offering parent education courses. That could be essential for your group. It should provide a profile of the fathers you serve, important things such as demographics, whether or not they're nonresident fathers or they're resident fathers. You should also offer an opportunity for partnership with the organization you're pitching to. And what I mean by that is if you have taken the time to do your homework, really understand the services or the resources that that particular partner or prospective partner may offer, you want to mention that in your conversation. So you could say something like try to mention the benefit of how their services would offer fathers an opportunity that would be beneficial. Finally, you want to make sure that you have a call to action. And what I mean by that is its great to have an elevator pitch, but if you don't assign some urgency called into action, it really isn't going to go anywhere. They'll look at you and they'll smile.

And what we want to do is we want to ask the prospective partner for a meeting to discuss the opportunity in greater detail. I think that is so critical in giving them a pitch. Now let's close that pitch so that we can get engaged with step 2 of this conversation. Once you have a partnership in place, the terms should be established by a memorandum of understanding. Be sure to facilitate an effective reform so the relationship is maintained between the program, community partners, and the father. And I guess my last observation here is the elevator pitch should be a universal message across the program, meaning every staff person should communicate the same message. We shouldn't have five or six different messages. Whenever we see for the first time a new potential parent, potential partner, our messaging should be the same across the organization. Let's move ahead to the next tip. Tip Number 3: Leverage Existing Partnerships. The emphasis here is developing fatherhood champions within your program. Obviously we can't do it alone. It takes more than the staff to be able to have a measurable impact. So let me start by saying it's important to recognize knowledge, skills, expertise, and existing champions in your program. And I think one approach to that is providing fathers opportunities to increase their involvement in program plans. We often times feel very comfortable that we have all the answers and that we want to provide some leadership in where the program is going. Let's try to make sure that we empower fathers so that they have an opportunity to be an integral part of our program plans. Another approach could be engaging parent partners or parent governance board members to help create, cultivate partnerships with agencies on behalf of fathers.

The focus here is really building a strong community network utilizing program participants. I remember I would go to a number of different introductions that we would have for the community in which I had oversight for, and we would always allow the fathers an opportunity to stand up and talk about how Head Start had really affected them in a positive way in terms of their relationship with their child. And you want to make sure when you have that kind of audience that you also have community partners in there because the message that fathers can share with potential prospects, it resonates and it touches them emotionally to see that wow, they're really doing tremendous work. So I wanted to share that with you, and what I would tell you is that a great reference for community partnerships can be found in the Head Start Father Engagement Birth to Five Program Guide. It's on pages 41-46. I'll turn the presentation over to David at this time.

David: Thanks, Lima. Wow, so as I was listening to Gee and Lima, I was so excited to look at the chat box. I love all the ways that you are engaging fathers. There's a lot of cultural responsiveness, and also a lot of creativity. And this is a great thing, but also it's really important to understand that someone put a note in the chat box about the growth, the positive movement that's happened over the last 10-15-20 years. What we're going to talk about now is the fact that you really don't have to do that alone. And there are some circumstances where the partnerships that Lima talked about require you to have meaningful partnerships with some of the community collaborators. So what do we mean by special circumstances? Well special circumstances can mean a variety of things.

However, in my experience, it really requires a deeper investment on the part of the staff to initially provide concrete support, and then after some level of assessment, refer a father out to a more appropriate setting. Listen, we know that Head Start programs do a lot. However, they cannot address every single issue. This is why establishing effective partnerships like Lima described is so important. And often times programs are faced with the decision to go deeper, and they do not have the internal capacity to do so. They view this as a barrier to service provisions. And while there are a number of barriers, programs can find resources to address them. However, this is why we partner, because there is and will always be another entity within the community that can enhance our service delivery, regardless of how strong it might be. At this juncture, trust has already been developed, so a father in this situation is going to trust your judgment when deciding how to help him address his issue. And as Lima mentioned, pages 41-46 of the guide provides really, really nice examples of the types of collaborations, programs we need to support fathers.

So I can give you some examples and we talk about special circumstances, there are adolescents, or some people refer to them as teen fathers. There are fathers that are returning from the military. There are fathers that may have literacy or outstanding educational needs. Or there may be fathers that might be involved in the child welfare system. But they all require a different approach. So what can programs do? Well, immediately the family engagement specialist may say I can address this though I feel a little bit uncomfortable addressing this. And that's where you sort of connect with the mental health consultant. They can help you by providing guidance and the development of a plan, but you have to ensure that the father is on board every step of the way.

It's also important to note: programs that are evaluating partnerships have done their homework, and they've already met with some success, engaging and developing the strong relationships that we talked about in the first webinar. Be thoughtful as you create your partnerships. Selecting partners who share a similar philosophical approach to service [Inaudible] wherever possible. Programs evolve over time, and they mature. The time between the topics that we covered in the first webinar and the ones that we're discussing today can vary greatly across programs. And it takes effort to build and sustain meaningful partnerships. Stay committed. Stay focused. Trust yourself. And trust the process.

Guylaine: Thank you so much David. Thank you very much. We are going to be moving now to the next steps. And I hope that we have the opportunity this afternoon to not only explore the good things that we are already doing, but also take advantage of those tips, and take advantage mostly of you know keep our mind going around the special population that you know and the special things that David encouraged us to do. So I [Inaudible] next step. What's next? What are we going to do? First of all, I know we are probably you are anxious to know: am I going to get a certificate for this? Yes, you will. But what I would love for you to do with us is to also complete a survey that we have about this interaction that we have

had this afternoon. And this survey is going to be sent to you, to the email that you provided, the one that you got to be invited.

They will send you a survey, and as long as you complete the survey, you'll be able to download your certificate. So this will be emailed to you today or tomorrow. So be on the lookout for that. And now I would like to take a quick second to highlight one of the, I don't know if any of you is familiar with this guide, but this Head Start Father Engagement Birth to Five Programming Guide is one of the resources that the Office of Head Start and also the National Center, we are really focusing on to support the work that we do with fathers. We really encourage you to go ahead and download it. It has some very good qualms, ideas, anything that you will need as you are developing your plan, as you are putting what you need in support of the fathers. And again, it is available on the ECLKC. And it's under the title Head Start Father Engagement. And I know if you look at your resource, again you can download it, but remember it is a two step process. You download, you click on it, and you browse to. And that's how you're going to be able to download it. Alright?

Okay. So what is next? Guess what, we are not finished. On May 25, we started a conversation around welcoming our fathers in program environment and also strong family partnerships. Today we talked about how we could leverage community partnerships to support fathers' well-beings. We have on June 22, we would like to have you with us again as we are trying to we will be looking at how do we engage fathers and their children in their learning development. You will receive an invitation. So we will hope that you'll always take the opportunity to come and converse with us again about how to engage fathers in their children's learning and development.

And now we would love – because you know we are going to continue the dialogue. It was so rich, ya you know and keeping in touch with each other through the general chat. So we will continue giving this opportunity. So we are going to stay on until 4:15 eastern time. And we are going to continue to discuss. We are going to be able to do that in chat, so we are going to keep on talking to you. You can keep on talking to each other. And we have until at 4:15 we will close this webinar officially.

And we also would like to take this opportunity to invite you to sign up for the Fatherhood Connection Resource Flash. This is a quarterly newsletter that we have, so if you sign up for it, you will be on our mailing list. And last but not least, we would like to continue to dialogue with you, and this is our information where you can find us, where you can send notes to us, where you can email us, and you can call us by calling this number on the screen: 866-763-6481. Or you can find us also on the ECLKC. And this is – we are actually I can just put to remember something, we are the last but not the least family international center as you open under ECLKC, you're going to see all the national centers on one side, and we are the last but not least.

Thank you very much for your participation this afternoon, and I would like to give you the last word, David or Lima, if you have anything else to tell our participants. But one of the things we have to say on behalf of the National Center of Parent, Family, Community Engagement, and we would like to say thank you so much for your participation. It was awesome.

Lima: I totally agree. It was. The feedback and engagement, it's educational for me just to get some insight as to what goes on around the country. Greatly appreciate everyone's participation. Thank you so much.

David: Yea, ditto to what Gee and Lima just shared, and I would also offer up that if there are any of you that are interested in joining our fatherhood champions group, I'm going to put my email in the chat box. Send me an email. Let's have a conversation and we'll see if we can have you help us advance this work. Thanks everyone.

Guyline: Thank you guys. And remember we are staying with chat, in chat with you. So you can stay with us and keep on chatting.

Thank you.